

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OEXC, BEXP (LOLAMARI, O.) (AKAN, E.D.)

SUBJECT: ENERGY: JUSTIFICATION OF LATE NOMINATION FOR NIGERIAN
OIL OFFICIALS TO VISIT U.S.

REFS: SEE PARA 8.

SUMMARY: NOMINATIONS BY SEPTTEL OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM
RESOURCES LOLOMARI AND NNOC ECONOMIST AKAN FOR IV GRANTS TO
VISIT U.S. IN NOVEMBER IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. VISIT CLIMAXES
THREE YEAR EFFORT ESTABLISH METHODS BY WHICH NIGERIAN OFFICIALS
CAN OBTAIN OIL AND GAS TECHNOLOGY FROM U.S. AND DIRECTLY
SERVES OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES. END SUMMARY.

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT SINCE NOVEMBER 1971
ESTABLISH CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US INSTITUTIONS ABLE
TRANSFER PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY AND OFFICIAL NIGERIAN AGENCIES
(PRINCIPALY FEDERAL MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER AND NIGERIAN
NATIONAL OIL CORPORATION) WHO HAVE DIRECTLY REQUESTED USG
ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING SUCH TRANSFER. PARA 7 IS PARTIAL
LIST MESSAGES THIS SUBJECT.

2. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY MADE LITTLE PROGRESS UNTIL MARCH 25,
1974, WHEN, IN PRESENCE AF/W DESK OFFICER ALAN MCKEE, MMP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MINES AND POWER LOLOMARI GAVE US WRITTEN
ACCEPTANCE OF EMBASSY'S INVITATION SEND FOUR OR MORE PAIRS OF
NIGERIAN OFFICIALS TO US DURING 1974 AS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS
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UNDER CU PROGRAM. TO DATE THREE PAIRS OF OFFICIALS HAVE VISITED

US: UDOFIA AND UZODIKE IN APRIL-MAY; AKPE AND SOGBAMU IN JULY;
OKEKE AND FAWIBE IN SEPTEMBER.

3. SEPTTEL NOMINATES LOLOMARI AND E.D. AKAN (NNOC ECONOMIST) FOR
FOURTH SUCH TRIP IN NOVEMBER. INASMUCH AS NOMINATIONS ARE
RELATIVELY LATE AND EMBASSY REQUESTING DEPARTMENT MAKE SPECIAL
EFFORT ACCOMMODATE, THIS MESSAGE INTENDED SHOW HOW NOMINATIONS
SERVE TOTAL US INTERESTS AS WELL AS OBJECTIVES OF EDUCATIONAL
AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS NOVEMBER PROGRAM FOR LOLOMARI AND AKAN
INDISPENSIBLE CLIMAX OF THIS PHASE OF OUR THREE-YEAR EFFORT
ESTABLISH TECHNICAL LINKS BETWEEN US AND NIGERIAN OFFICIALDOM.
IN NOMINATING SERIES OF IV'S FOR TRAVEL, OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE
CONTACTS, AND SHORT-TERM TRAINING COURSES IN US, MISSION EXCHANGE
COMMITTEE HAS HOPED THAT PATTERN WOULD BE ESTABLISHED WHICH FMG
WOULD CONTINUE AT OWN EXPENSE. THREE VISITS SO FAR HAVE MORE
THAN FULFILLED OUR EXPECTATIONS, AND FACT THAT LOLOMARI HIMSELF
IS NOW WILLING PARTICIPATE IS EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING. THAT HE WANTS
TO ATTEND SHORT COURSE AT INSTITUTE OF GAS TECHNOLOGY (RATHER
THAN API CONVENTION IN NEW YORK AS ORIGINALLY INTENDED) MUST
INDICATE THAT VALUE OF EARLY VISITORS' EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH
COURSES HAS BEEN PROVED. THAT HE WANTS IN ADDITION TO IGT
COURSE AND WASHINGTON VISIT TO INVESTIGATE TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES AT US UNIVERSITIES IS ALSO GOOD SIGN THAT OUR
OBJECTIVES BEING FULFILLED.

5. AS SECOND RANKING NIGERIAN OFFICIAL EXCLUSIVELY RESPONSIBLE
FOR IL AND GAS, LOLOMARI UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES IS TROP
PRIORITY CANDIDATE FOR IV GRANT. GIVEN THE RELATIVE
INACCESSIBILITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF MINES AND POWER, THE
PERMSEC, AND THE DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES, LOLOMARI
HAS BEEN THE EMASSY'S BEST SINGLE CONTACT IN THE VITAL AREA
OF OIL AND GAS--AND ACCESS TO HIM STEMS IN LARGE PART FROM THE
SUCCESS OF THE CU PROGRAM SO FAR. HE HEADS THE NIGERIAN
DELEGATION TO ALL TECHNICAL MEETINGS OF OPEC AND INVARIABLY
ATTENDS MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETINGS WITH THE COMMISSIONER. LIKE
MOST NIGERIANS LOLOMARI IS COURTEOUS AND USUALLY SOFT-SPOKEN
BUT WHEN OCCASION DEMANDS HE SINCERLY AND ARTICULATELY DEFENDS
THE NIGERIAN AND OPEC VIEW OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OIL CONSUMERS
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AND PRODUCERS. HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON SHOULD PROVIDE AND
EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION
WHICH WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT BOTH SIDES. (SUCH AN EXCHANGE, WE
MIGHT ADD, IS ONLY OCCASIONALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE EMBASSY TO
ARRANGE IN LAGOS FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, AMONG WHICH ARE THE
PRESSURES OF DAILY BUSINESS AND THE DIFFICULTY OF ACCESS TO
OIL OFFICIALS AT LOLOMARI'S LEVEL OR ABOVE.)

6. PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IS AMONG THOSE CURRENT CU PROGRAMS WHICH RELATE MOST DIRECTLY TO PRIORITY US POLCY OBJECTIVES AS SET FORTH IN PARA, COUNTRY COMMERCIAL PROGRAM, AND COUNTRY PROGRAM PROPOSAL (USIS), I.E. PRESERVATION OF NIGERIA AS A PRIMARY US SOURCE OF IMPORTED OIL AND ENERGY AND THE PROMOTION OF US TRADE AND INVESTMENT. EMASSY'S EFFORTS TO INTERES THE NIGERIANS IN SEEKING US TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ON THEIR OWN AND LOLOMARI'S VISIT IN PARTICULAR ARE UNIQUELY INTENDED TO SERVE THESE OBJECTIVES.

7. FINALLY, VISIT WOULD ADMIRABLY SERVE OBJECTIVES EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM. EACH CANDIDATE ALREADY HAS POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR USE OF NIGERIA'S CONSIDERABLE ENERGY RESOURCES, AND BOTH HAVE MANY YEARS AHEAD OF THEM TO ATTAIN EVEN HIGHER LEADERSHIP ROLES. THE ARE EXCELLENTLY PLACED TO INFLUENCE PRESENT AND FUTURE ENERGY POLICIES AND ATTITUDES OF ALL NIGERIA TOWARD SUPPLY OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, AFTER VISITING US AND CONFERRING WITH US GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS IN THEIR FIELD, THEY SHOULD BE BETTER INTERPRETERS OF US ENERGY POLICIES AND US SOCIETY IN GENERAL, NOT ONLY IN NIGERIA BUT TO SOME EXTENT INTERNATIONALLY AMONG ALL LDC PRODUCERS OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

8. FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL LIST OF PAST MESSAGES THIS SUBJECT:

LAGOS 9470 (NOV. 12, 1971)
LAGOS 9609 (NOV. 18, 1971)
STATE 219582 (DEC. 7, 1971)
LAGOS 10271 (DEC. 16, 1971)
LAGOS 2196 (APR 7, 1972)
STATE 109213 (JUNE 19, 1972)
STATE 148411 (AUG. 16, 1972)
LAGOS 8246 (OCT. 24, 1972)
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STATE 109426 (JUNE 7, 1973)
LAGOS 5228 (JUNE 27, 1973)
LAGOS 5390 (JULY 3, 1973)
LAGOS 6988 (AUG. 27, 1973)
STATE 171686 (AUG. 28, 1973).
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